



IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Patent Application

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Title: PROCESS FOR FABRICATING OPTICAL FIBER

10 THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

15 This is a reply to the Office Action mailed Feb. 22, 2002.

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replacement Claim 1:

1. (amended) A process for preparing optical fiber, comprising the step of:
drawing fiber from a preform comprising a silica body, the body formed by a
20 process including the step of, prior to sintering the body, treating the body at a
temperature ranging from 300 to 900°C with a gaseous mixture comprising one or more
non-oxygenated sulfur halides, and
wherein the one or more sulfur halides are generated by reaction of sulfur present
in the body with halides flowed over the body.

[Unchanged Claim 2:]

25 2. The process of claim 1, wherein the body is selected from an overcladding
tube and a substrate tube.

[Unchanged Claim 3:]

3. The process of claim 2, wherein the body is formed by a sol-gel process.